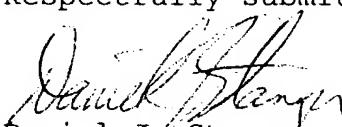


**REMARKS**

Independent claim 1 has been amended so as to be directed to a photomask having, on a glass plate, a shade pattern containing at least nanoparticles and a binder, wherein the nanoparticles in the shade pattern have an exposure-light-scattering characteristic which substantially restricts transmittance of exposure light through the nanoparticles. As amended, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record, according to the Examiner as discussed by telephone on October 8, 2003.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application should stand in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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